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245 "racoven" [a] among this same tribe as well as among the Kukra of the Corn Islands. M. W. (302, 310) also refers to bananas and plantains among the plants cultivated by the Miskito.

There is a great variety of bananas and plantains grown by these Indians, but by far the most common is the so-called "Gros Michel" (also Jamaica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, or Bluefields), known to the Ladinos as "patriota" or "blanco"; this is the only variety entering largely into world trade. The Chinese or dwarf banana (*Musa chinensis* syn. *M. humilis* and *M. cavendishii*), which is the one grown in the Canary Islands for the European market, is also grown a little; this is the only species suitable for cultivation in the temperate zone and in the higher altitudes of the tropics. It is cultivated in Florida and in southern Louisiana, where it is called "horse banana." Various varieties of the plantain (M.: *plato*, from the Spanish "plátano"; S.: *waki; Musa paradisiaca normalis*) are also grown by both tribes. There are some native names for certain of the local varieties of the plantain and banana.

244 CASSAVA.—Sweet cassava (*Manihot palmata* Muell. or *M. aipi* Pohl; M.: *yauhra;* S.: *malai, maley*) is the staple food of the coastal Miskito; it is also cultivated by those living inland, and by the Sumu. This food plant was mentioned by Raveneau de Lussan (438), Exquemelin (Engl. ed.: 251), and M. W. (310). The bitter cassava (*Manihot utilissima* Pohl) is unknown to either Miskito or Sumu, but is largely cultivated in two different varieties by the Black Carib (Garif) and the Paya of Honduras, who eliminate the deadly hydrocyanic acid contained therein by ingenious methods.

EDDOES OR TANIAS.—This plant, which is known locally among the English-speaking population by the Jamaican name "coco" (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* Schott; M.: *duswa;* S.: *wilis*), is also cultivated for its eatable tubers. It is of similar appearance and habits as the taro (*Colocasia* sp.), the staple food of the Pacific Islands.

SWEETPOTATOES.—There are several varieties of the sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas* Poir.; M.: *tawa;* S.: *pai*). This food plant has been met with by several authors of the seventeenth century among the Miskito of Cabo Gracias a Dios (Exquemelin, Engl. edit.: 251; Dampier: I, 9; M. W.: 310). It was also cultivated by the aborigines of the Corn Islands in those days (Exquemelin, Engl. edit.: 114).

[77] YAMS.—Several varieties of yams (*Dioscorea* sp.) are cultivated; they are of African origin and the Indians have no native name for them.

[a] This name is probably deformed from pacoba, bacove, bakaceba, or bacoven, names given to the banana in Brazil and in the Guianas. These words derive from pako or pakoba "banana" of the Tupi-Guarani linguistic stock. In the Spanish edition of Exquemelin's work (p. 453) the word is, in fact, spelled "bacoves." Cf. also Van Panhuys, Observations on the Name Bacove, Twenty-first International Congress of Americanists. Göteborg, 1925.

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them. There is, however, a semiwild growing variety of a purplish color, which is called *usi* by the Miskito and Sumu; this is probably the one mentioned by Dampier (I, 9) and M. W. (310). 244

OTHER VEGETABLES.—Pumpkins and squashes (*Cucurbita pepo* L.; M.: *iwa;* S.: *ati*) are also grown to some extent, while the chayote or chocho (*Sechium edule* Sw.; M. and S.: *mukula*) and the tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum* Mill.) are cultivated in a desultory way. The latter plant appears to be indigenous, but there is no native name for it.

MAIZE.—Maize or Indian corn (*Zea mays* L.; M.: *aya;* S.: *am, ama*), which forms the staple food practically all over Central America, is sparsely cultivated by the Miskito; however, it was already observed among them during the latter part of the seventeenth century by Raveneau de Lussan (438) and by M. W. (308, 310). This food plant is more esteemed by the Sumu, especially by the Twahka and Ulwa, who grow an inferior quality of inbred maize. It is stored by hanging it under the roof over the smoke in order to prevent molding. 243 [257]

BEANS.—The red or black beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), which rank as a staple food in large areas of northern and western Central America, are grown to a very small extent by either Miskito or Sumu. The red variety is the one usually found; it is somewhat smaller than the red kidney bean of the United States. Both tribes have a native name (M.: *snak, snik;* S.: *sinak*) for the plant; as these designations are also applied to a wild-growing vine, bearing small beanlike fruits, it is very probable that beans have been introduced only in recent times. In fact, this food plant is not mentioned by any one of the seventeenth century authors. 244

RICE.—Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is rarely cultivated and has been introduced recently; it is known by its English or Spanish name. The grain is heavy and rounded, and it differs considerably from the native wild rice of tropical America (*Zizania* sp.), with long, narrow, dark grain. 243

PEJIVALLE PALM.—The pejivalle or pijibay palm (*Guilielma utilis* Oerst.; M. and S.: *supa*) is cultivated for its edible fruit all over the Mosquito Coast, usually around the Indian huts. The Central American name for this plant appears to have been taken from the Arawak language of Haiti. The palm is probably of South American origin and is extensively cultivated in the tropical part of that continent. It is there known by a great variety of names, of which the following are the best known: Gachipáes, cachipaes or cachipay (Colombia), chonta[a] (Ecuador), piritu, prijao (Venezuela), pupunha (Brazil), paripu, paripi and peach palm (Guianas). 245

[a] From the Quichua *chontatárru* or *chontadura*.